

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Appln. No. 10/019,560
Docket No. Q67729

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): Flexible container (~~3, 30, 34~~) made of film material for containing a fluid substance, comprising:

a fill opening (~~9~~) and

a partitioning means along which a first container wall part is placed against a second container wall part, the partitioning means dividing the container in a first (~~17, 32, 33, 38~~) and a second compartment (~~17, 18, 19, 32, 33, 38, 42, 43~~) characterized in that the partition means comprises a restraining member (~~13, 14, 23, 24~~) which maintains a substantially fluid tight separation of the first and second compartment until a predetermined pressure is achieved in the first compartment,

wherein at the predetermined pressure, the restraining member is released by the fill pressure for placing the first and second compartment in fluid communication;

wherein said flexible container is a generally cylindrical shape, and the restraining member comprises at least two closure lines extending essentially from a top of the container to the bottom of the container, on each side of a longitudinal center line.

2. (currently amended): Flexible container according to Claim 1, wherein the restraining member comprises two closure lines ~~(13, 14)~~ which extend essentially from the top of the container to the bottom thereof.

3. (currently amended): Flexible container (3) according to Claim 2, characterised in that a front film layer is joined to a back film layer along the sealing lines ~~(13, 14)~~.

4. (currently amended): Flexible container ~~(3)~~ according to Claim 1, characterised in that the container is folded double along the closure lines ~~(13, 14)~~, a first layer of the film material folded double being attached via the restraining member ~~(23, 24)~~ to a second layer of the film material folded double.

5. (currently amended): Flexible container ~~(3)~~ according to Claim 4, characterised in that the restraining member ~~(23, 24)~~ comprise adhesive tape.

6. (currently amended): Flexible container ~~(3)~~ according to Claim 4, characterised in that on either side of a centre line of the container two side strips ~~(20, 21)~~ of the container are folded double along fold lines ~~(13, 14)~~ located parallel to the centre line.

7. (currently amended): Flexible container ~~(30, 34)~~ according to Claim 1, characterised in that the film storage means are formed in that a portion of the film material has been displaced

from the peripheral edge of the container to the centre of the container and is positioned between wall sections located opposite one another.

8. (currently amended): Flexible container ~~(3, 30, 34)~~ according to claim 1, characterised in that the fill opening is provided with a shut-off valve ~~(10)~~, air being at least partially removed from the container.

9. (currently amended): Filling method for filling a flexible container ~~(3, 30, 34)~~ with a fluid substance, comprising the following steps:

- placing the flexible container ~~(3, 30, 34)~~ in a relatively rigid container ~~(2)~~, the flexible container being provided with a film material for containing a fluid substance comprising a fill opening ~~(9)~~ and a partitioning means along the which a first container wall part is placed against a second container wall part, the partitioning means dividing the container in a first ~~(17, 32, 33, 38)~~ and second compartment ~~(17, 18, 19, 32, 33, 38, 42, 43)~~, characterised in that the partitioning means comprises a restraining member ~~(13, 14, 23, 24)~~ which maintains a substantially fluid tight separation of the first and second compartment until a predetermined pressure is achieved in the first compartment, wherein at the predetermined pressure, the restraining member is released by the fill pressure for placing the first and second compartment in fluid communication;

- filling the first compartment with the fluid substance via a fill opening ~~(9)~~ in the container ~~(3, 30, 34)~~,

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Appln. No. 10/019,560

Docket No. Q67729

- activating the film storage means via the fill pressure such that the second compartment ~~(18, 19, 32, 33, 42, 43)~~ is released, and

- filling the second compartment ~~(18, 19, 32, 33, 42, 43)~~ until the film material of the flexible container ~~(3, 30, 34)~~ is at least largely in contact with the wall of the rigid container ~~(2)~~;

wherein said flexible container is a generally cylindrical shape, and the restraining member comprises at least two closure lines extending essentially from a top of the container to the bottom of the container, on each side of a longitudinal center line.

10. (currently amended): Method according to Claim 9, characterised in that air is removed from the flexible container before the flexible container ~~(3, 30, 34)~~ is inserted in the rigid container ~~(2)~~.

11. (currently amended): Method according to Claim 9, characterised in that the flexible container ~~(3, 30, 34)~~ is folded double along closure lines ~~(13, 14)~~, the container sections folded double being attached to one another by the restraining member ~~(23, 24, 40, 41)~~ which can be released by fill pressure.

12. (currently amended): Method according to Claim 9, characterised in that during filling at least one of a flow rate and a fill pressure is measured and in that a change in the at least one of the flow rate and the fill pressure is determined on activation of the film storage means.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Appln. No. 10/019,560
Docket No. Q67729

13. (new): An assembly, including:

the flexible container according to Claim 1, and

a generally cylindrical, rigid outer container, said flexible container inserted into said generally cylindrical, rigid outer container;

wherein a central cylindrical area is defined between the closure lines;

wherein upon filling and expanding the flexible container, vertical sides of the flexible container outside the closure lines do not press against the walls of the rigid outer container; and

wherein after release of the closure lines, the flexible container material outside the closure lines is pressed into contact with the rigid outer container.

14. (new): The method according to Claim 9, further comprising inserting said flexible container into a generally cylindrical, rigid outer container;

wherein a central cylindrical area is defined between the closure lines;

wherein upon filling and expanding the flexible container, vertical sides of the flexible container outside the closure lines do not press against the walls of the rigid outer container; and

wherein after release of the closure lines, the flexible container material outside the closure lines is pressed into contact with the rigid outer container.